

Lagrangian-averaged Large Eddy Simulations  
for fluid/magnetofluid turbulence

J. Pietarila Graham,<sup>1</sup> Darryl Holm,<sup>2</sup> Pablo Mininni,<sup>3,4</sup> and  
Annick Pouquet<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Sonnensystemforschung

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Imperial College London

<sup>3</sup>National Center for Atmospheric Research

<sup>4</sup>Departamento de Física, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires

# RU 1048 Seminar - 18 June 2010

# Outline

- 1 Why the small scales matter
- 2 Lagrangian-averaged modeling for the small scales
- 3 Lagrangian-averaged MHD— $\alpha$

# Turbulence is nonlinear

## Incompressible fluid/magnetofluid equations

$$\partial_t \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla P + \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{b} + \mathcal{F} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}$$

$$\partial_t \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{b}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0, \quad \boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{v}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0, \quad \mathbf{j} = \nabla \times \mathbf{b}$$

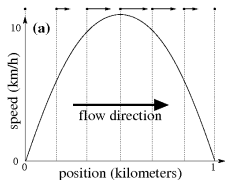
$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{B} / \sqrt{\mu_0 \rho_0}, \quad \partial_t \rho = 0$$

$$\frac{[V]^2 [L]^{-1}}{\nu [L]^2 [V]} \sim Re \equiv \frac{v_{r.m.s.} L}{\nu}$$

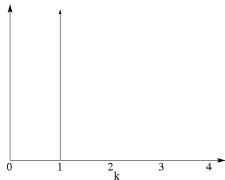
$$Re_M \equiv \frac{v_{r.m.s.} L}{\eta}$$

# Turbulence has a long range of scales

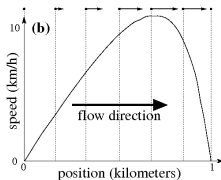
Cascade to small scales example:  $\partial_t \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v} \partial_x \mathbf{v} = \nu \partial_{xx} \mathbf{v}$



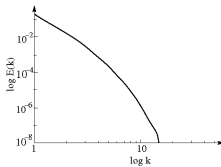
0 minutes



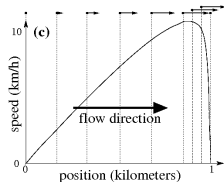
wavenumber



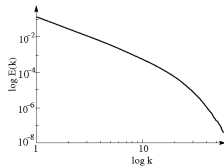
1.25 minutes



wavenumber



2.5 minutes

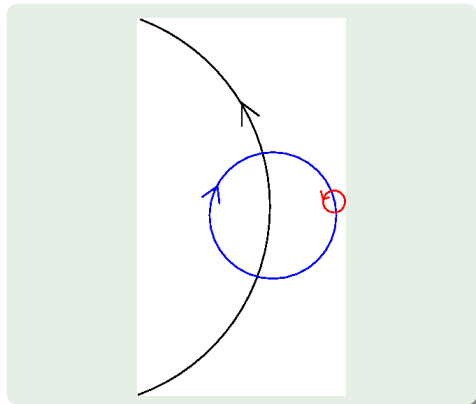


wavenumber

# Kolmogorov picture of the “direct” cascade (K41 theory)

## Assumptions

- spectral locality



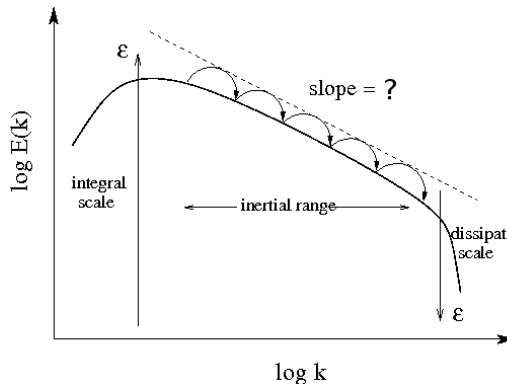
# Kolmogorov picture of the “direct” cascade (K41 theory)

## Assumptions

- spectral locality

$$\partial_t \hat{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{k}) + \mathfrak{F}[\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} + \nabla P](\mathbf{k}) = 0 + \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{k}) - \nu |\mathbf{k}|^2 \hat{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{k})$$

- no forcing
- no dissipation
- $\Rightarrow$  “inertial” range



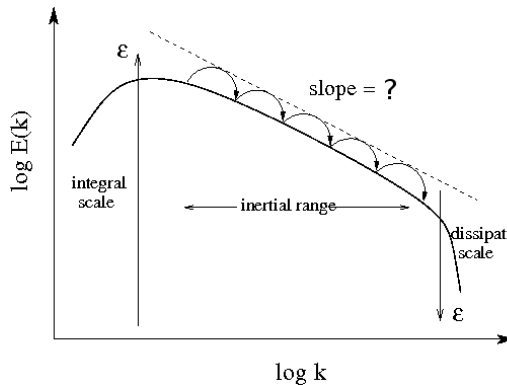
# Kolmogorov picture of the “direct” cascade (K41 theory)

## Assumptions

- spectral locality
- $\Rightarrow$  “inertial” range

$$\varepsilon \sim \partial_t E_K \equiv$$

$$\partial_t \frac{1}{2} v^2 = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{1}{2} v^2 + P \right)$$



# Kolmogorov picture of the “direct” cascade (K41 theory)

## Assumptions

- spectral locality
- $\Rightarrow$  “inertial” range

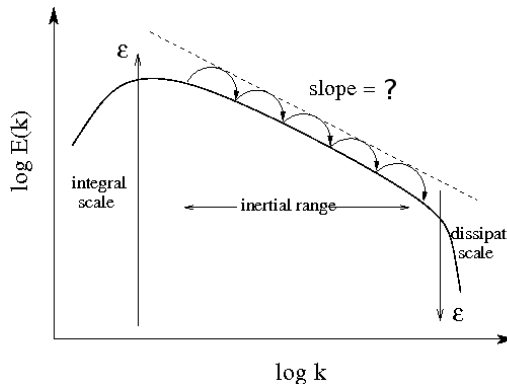
$$\varepsilon \sim \partial_t E_K \equiv$$

$$\partial_t \frac{1}{2} v^2 = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{1}{2} v^2 + P \right)$$

- Constant flux

$$\varepsilon \sim v^3 \frac{1}{l}$$

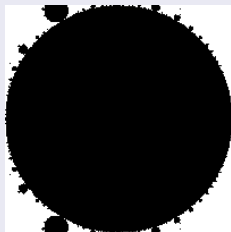
$$v^3 \sim \varepsilon l$$





# Exact self-similarity

## Mandelbrot set & Koch curve



Wikipedia

## Scaling relation for self-similar function

$$f(\lambda x) = \lambda^h f(x) \\ \rightarrow f(x) = Ax^h$$

# Kolmogorov 1941

## Assumptions

1 spectral locality

2 self-similarity:

$$\langle \delta v_{\parallel}(\lambda l) \rangle = \lambda^h \langle \delta v_{\parallel}(l) \rangle$$

$$v^2 \sim \varepsilon l^{2/3}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_K(k) \propto \varepsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

# Kolmogorov 1941

## Assumptions

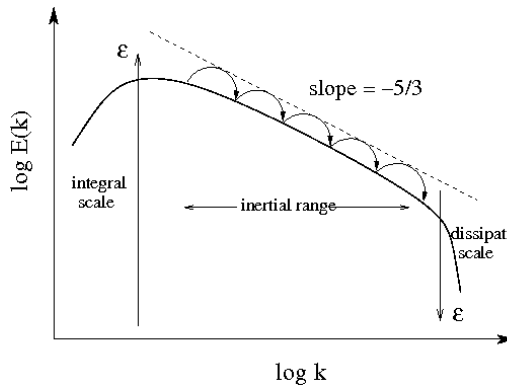
1 spectral locality

2 self-similarity:

$$\langle \delta v_{\parallel}(\lambda l) \rangle = \lambda^h \langle \delta v_{\parallel}(l) \rangle$$

$$v^2 \sim \varepsilon l^{2/3}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_K(k) \propto \varepsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$



# K41: We can't simulate (*much*) turbulence!

## How long is the cascade?

- Until all  $\varepsilon$  is dissipated:

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = \int^{k_\nu} k^2 E_K(k) dk \sim \epsilon^{2/3} k_\nu^{4/3}$$

$$l_\nu = \frac{2\pi}{k_\nu} \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu^3}\right)^{-1/4} \sim Re^{-3/4}$$

$$dof \equiv (L/l_\nu)^3 \sim Re^{9/4}$$

# K41: We can't simulate (*much*) turbulence!

## How long is the cascade?

- Until all  $\varepsilon$  is dissipated:

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu} = \int k_\nu k^2 E_K(k) dk \sim \epsilon^{2/3} k_\nu^{4/3}$$

$$l_\nu = \frac{2\pi}{k_\nu} \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu^3}\right)^{-1/4} \sim Re^{-3/4}$$

$$dof \equiv (L/l_\nu)^3 \sim Re^{9/4}$$

## K41: $dof \propto Re^{9/4}$

Supergranule:  $Re_M = \frac{\nu l}{\eta} \sim 3 \cdot 10^6$

→ 300,000<sup>3</sup> simulation

4096<sup>3</sup> Earth Simulator (Kaneda et al 2003)

→ **year 2040** to resolve B-field

$Re \sim 10^{11}$  → **year 2080** for  $v$

Corona:  $Re_M \sim [10^8, 10^{12}]$

(Aschwanden 2006)

Solar wind:  $Re_M \sim 10^{11}$

(Weygand et al. 2007)

Interstellar medium:  $Re_M \sim 10^{11}$

(Zweibel 1999)



# What can we do about it?

## Modeling

- Temporal filtering: Reynolds averaging
- Spatial filtering: Large Eddy Simulations (LES)
  - Implicit
    - Moderate  $Re$  models high  $Re$ ?
    - Dissipative numerical techniques
  - Explicit
    - Devise a model of the un-resolved scales

# What can we do about it?

## Large Eddy Simulations (LES)

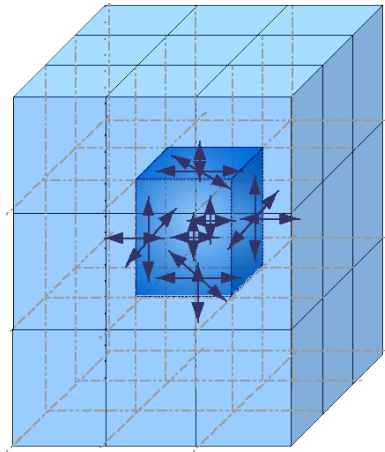
$$L : \mathbf{z} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{z}}$$

$$\partial_t \bar{\mathbf{v}} + \bar{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla \bar{\mathbf{v}} = -\nabla \bar{P} + \nu \nabla^2 \bar{\mathbf{v}} - \nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{\tau}}$$

divergence of subgrid stress (SGS) tensor:  $\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{\tau}} = \nabla \cdot (\overline{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}\bar{\mathbf{v}})$

# LES in real space

Modeling the effect of unresolved scales



divergence of subgrid  
stress (SGS) tensor

$$\nabla \cdot \underline{\tau} = \nabla \cdot (\overline{\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}} - \bar{\mathbf{v}}\bar{\mathbf{v}})$$



Why the small scales matter

Lagrangian-averaged modeling for the small scales

Lagrangian-averaged MHD— $\alpha$

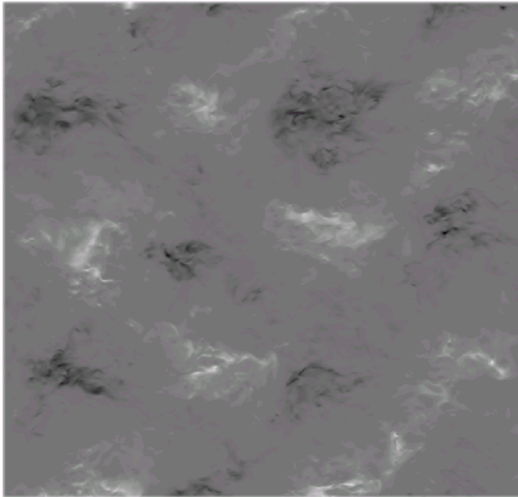
How much small scale

Removing the small scales...

...and why it's hard

# Turbulence is Intermittent, *not* self-similar

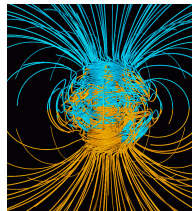
Worry about “back-scatter” from unresolved scales in LES



# Direct, local cascade is an incomplete picture

Worry about interactions with un-resolved scales

- Turbulence is *non*-local
  - Nonlocal transfers for fluids ( $Re^{-1/2}$ ) (Alekaxis et al. 2005, 2006)
  - MHD *very* nonlocal (Alfvén waves)
- Self-organization: “inverse cascade”
  - Quasi 2D nonconducting fluid - inverse cascade of energy
  - MHD - inverse cascade of magnetic helicity,  $\int \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} dV$



# LES: limited success

## Series of *ad-hoc* models

- Smagorinsky/eddy-viscosity:  $\tau_{ij} = -2(C_S\alpha)^2 |\underline{S}| S_{ij}$ , only dissipative: no back-scatter; inhibits transition to turbulence; excessively dissipative near walls
- Dynamic:  $C_S(\mathbf{x}, t)$  by assuming self-similarity at test filter scale; improved results but destabilizes simulations
- Similarity model:  $\underline{\tau}$  is self-similar  
back-scatter; inadequate dissipation, inaccurate *a posteriori* results
- Leonard tensor-diffusivity/Clark: generic  $\alpha^2$  term of  $\nabla \cdot \underline{\tau}$   
excellent *a priori*: back-scatter, globally dissipative; *a posteriori* needs extra dissipation to perform

# No general LES for MHD

## Challenges

- Eddy-viscosity  $\leftrightarrow k^{-5/3}$  (Chollet & Lesieur 1981) *not*  $-3/2$
- $E_K$  &  $E_M$  *not* conserved quantities
- Spectrally **nonlocal** interactions between large scale of one field and small scale of the other (Alexakis et al. 2005; Alexakis 2007)
- Unresolved  $\mathbf{v}$  &  $\mathbf{b}$  interactions
- Many regimes – no generally applicable MHD-LES

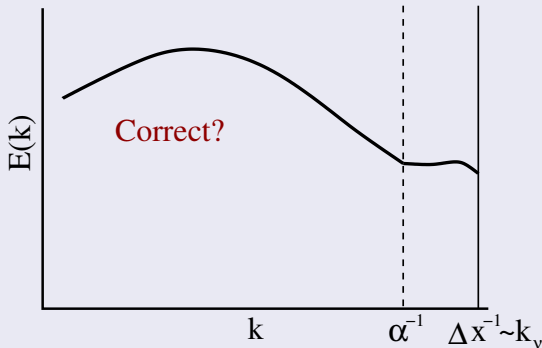
# No general LES for MHD

## Existing Models

- Dissipative LES (Theobald et al 1994)
  - Ignore sub-filter scale energy exchanges
  - Assumes energy spectra of non-conserved quantities
- Dissipative LES (Zhou et al 2002)
  - non-helical, stationary MHD
  - $k^{-5/3}$  and fixed ratio of energies
- Cross-helicity model (Müller & Carati 2002)
  - Assumes alignment between the fields
  - Reduced intermittency
- Low  $Re_M$  LES (Ponty et al 2004)
- Hyper-resistivity (not LES - Haugen & Brandenburg 2006)
  - Requires recalibration of length scales to known DNS

# 1 - Do the models work?

Do sub-filter-scale physics reproduce super-filter-scale properties?



# Lagrangian-averaged Navier-Stokes (LANS, $\alpha$ —model)

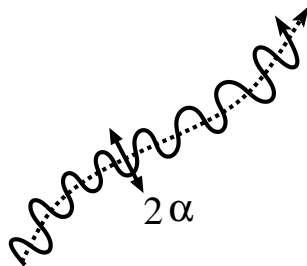
Camassa et al. 1993, Holm et al. 1998, Chen et al. 1998

## What is the model?

- 1 Generalized Lagrangian mean (Andrews & McIntyre 1978)
- 2 Taylor's frozen-in-turbulence

## Mathematically

- Retains Hamiltonian structure
- Preserves Kelvin's theorem, small-scale circulation
- Conservation of energy, helicity ( $H_\alpha^1$  not  $L^2$ :  $\frac{1}{2}\langle \bar{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle$  not  $\frac{1}{2}\langle v^2 \rangle$ )



# Lagrangian-averaged Navier-Stokes (LANS, $\alpha$ —model)

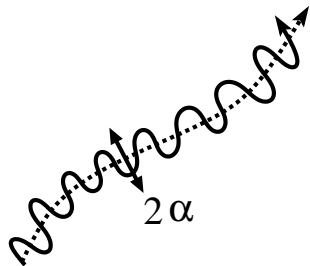
Camassa et al. 1993, Holm et al. 1998, Chen et al. 1998

## What is the model?

- 1 Generalized Lagrangian mean (Andrews & McIntyre 1978)
- 2 Taylor's frozen-in-turbulence

## Physically

- Retains non-local large-small interactions
- Limits small local interactions
- Reduces flux of energy in sub- $\alpha$  scales





# Lagrangian-averaged Navier-Stokes (LANS, $\alpha$ —model)

Camassa et al. 1993, Holm et al. 1998, Chen et al. 1998

## Equations

$$\partial_t v_i + \partial_j(\bar{v}_j v_i) + \partial_i \pi + v_j \partial_i \bar{v}_j = \nu \partial_{jj} v_i$$

$$\partial_j v_j = \partial_j \bar{v}_j = 0$$

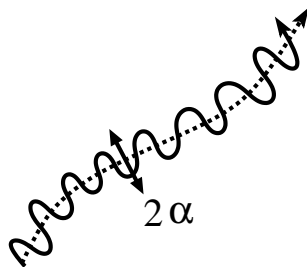
$$\text{Filter: } v_i = (1 - \alpha^2 \partial_{jj}) \bar{v}_i$$

## LES form

$$\partial_t \bar{v}_i + \partial_j(\bar{v}_j \bar{v}_i) + \partial_i \bar{P} + \partial_j \bar{\tau}_{ij}^\alpha = \nu \partial_{jj} \bar{v}_i$$

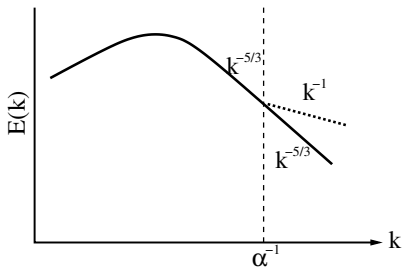
SGS:

$$\bar{\tau}_{ij}^\alpha = (1 - \alpha^2 \partial_{jj})^{-1} \alpha^2 (\partial_m \bar{v}_i \partial_m \bar{v}_j + \partial_m \bar{v}_i \partial_j \bar{v}_m - \partial_i \bar{v}_m \partial_j \bar{v}_m)$$

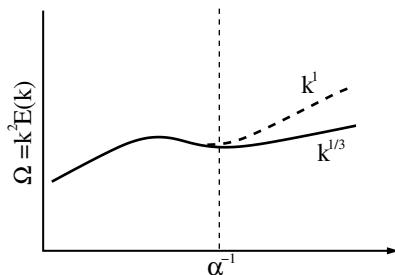


# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: How does it work?

$$H_{\alpha}^1 \sim k^{-1} \text{ (Holm 2002)}$$



# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: How does it work?



## Dissipates faster in $k$

$$-\frac{dE}{dt} = \varepsilon = 2\nu\Omega \sim \frac{1}{Re} \int^{k_\nu} k^2 E(k) dk$$

$$E(k) dk \sim \varepsilon^\gamma k^\beta$$

$$k_\nu \sim Re^{1/(3+\beta)} \quad \beta = -5/3 \quad \text{or} \quad -1$$

$$dof_\alpha \sim \alpha^{-1} Re^{3/2}$$

(predicted Foias et. al 2001, confirmed  
Graham et al. 2007)

$$dof_{NS} \sim Re^{9/4}$$

# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: At what $Re$ ?

## Great at moderate $Re$

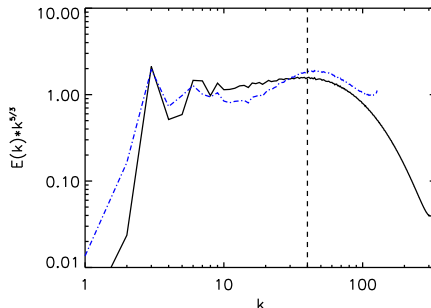
- Better than dynamic eddy viscosity  
( $Re_\lambda \approx 220$ , Mohseni et al. 2003)
- Better than dynamic mixed (similarity) eddy viscosity  
( $Re \approx 50$ , Geurts & Holm 2006)

# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: At what $Re$ ?

## Great at moderate $Re$

- Better than dynamic eddy viscosity ( $Re_\lambda \approx 220$ , Mohseni et al. 2003)
- Better than dynamic mixed (similarity) eddy viscosity ( $Re \approx 50$ , Geurts & Holm 2006)

Forced TG  $k = 2$ ,  $Re \approx 3300$

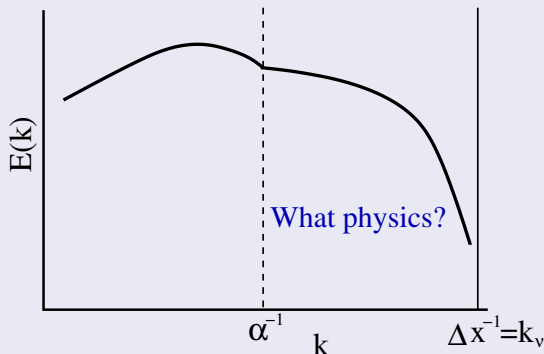


Navier-Stokes  $1024^3$

LANS  $384^3$ ,  $\alpha = 2\pi/40$

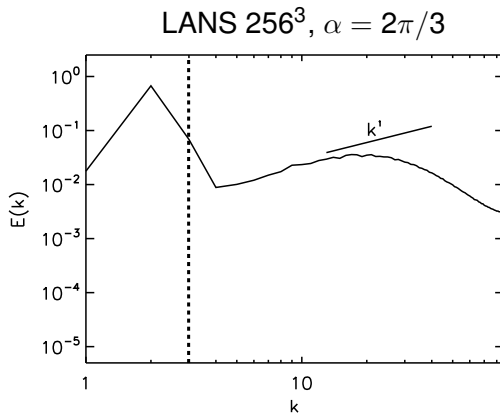
## 2 - HOW do the models work?

What are the sub-filter-scale physics?



# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: How does it fail?

Graham et al. PRE **76**, 056310 (2007)



Forced TG  $k = 2$ ,  $Re \approx 8000$

## Rigid bodies

$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{l}$$



$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\parallel}(\mathbf{l}) = \delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) \cdot \mathbf{l} / l = 0$$

$$\langle (\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}_{\parallel})^3 \rangle = 0$$

$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}^2 \sim l^0$$

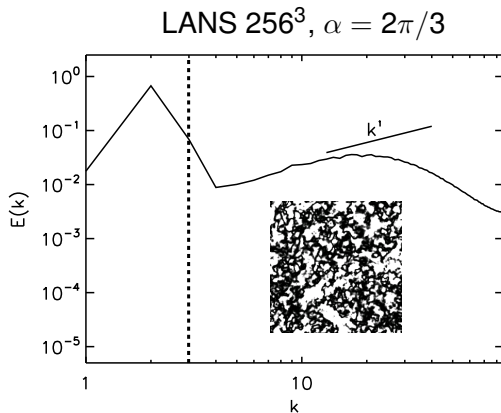
$$\bar{\mathbf{v}} \sim \alpha^{-2} k^{-2} \mathbf{v}$$

$$E_{\alpha}(k) k \sim \bar{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{v} \sim k^2$$

$$E_{\alpha}(k) \sim k^1$$

# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: How does it fail?

Graham et al. PRE **76**, 056310 (2007)



Forced TG  $k = 2$ ,  $Re \approx 8000$

## Rigid bodies

$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{l}$$



$$\delta \bar{v}_{\parallel}(\mathbf{l}) = \delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) \cdot \mathbf{l} / l = 0$$

$$\langle (\delta \bar{v}_{\parallel})^3 \rangle = 0$$

$$\delta \bar{v}^2 \sim l^0$$

$$\bar{v} \sim \alpha^{-2} k^{-2} v$$

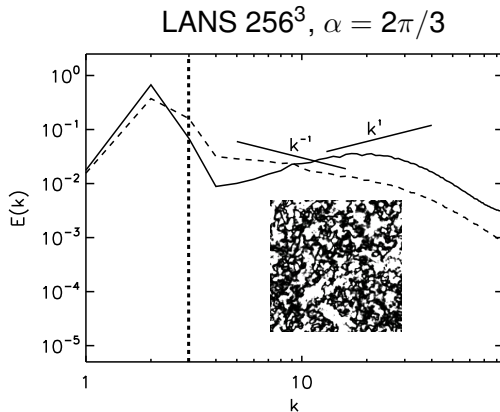
$$E_{\alpha}(k) k \sim \bar{v} v \sim k^2$$

$$E_{\alpha}(k) \sim k^1$$



# LANS $\alpha$ — *model*: How does it fail?

Graham et al. PRE **76**, 056310 (2007)



## Rigid bodies

$$\delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) = \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{l}$$



$$\delta \bar{v}_{\parallel}(\mathbf{l}) = \delta \bar{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{l}) \cdot \mathbf{l} / l = 0$$

$$\langle (\delta \bar{v}_{\parallel})^3 \rangle = 0$$

$$\delta \bar{v}^2 \sim l^0$$

$$\bar{v} \sim \alpha^{-2} k^{-2} v$$

$$E_{\alpha}(k) k \sim \bar{v} v \sim k^2$$

$$E_{\alpha}(k) \sim k^1$$

# How to get rid of rigid bodies?

## Change regularization

- Truncate **LANS**— $\alpha$

$$\bar{\tau}_{ij}^{\alpha} = (1 - \alpha^2 \partial_{jj})^{-1} \alpha^2 (\partial_m \bar{v}_i \partial_m \bar{v}_j + \partial_m \bar{v}_i \partial_j \bar{v}_m - \partial_i \bar{v}_m \partial_j \bar{v}_m)$$

- **1 term Clark**— $\alpha$  (Cao et al. 2005)
- **2 terms Leray**— $\alpha$  (Geurts & Holm 2002, 2003, 2006; Cheskidov et al. 2005)
- Conserves  $H_{\alpha}^1$ ,  $L^2$  energy but *not* helicity, circulation

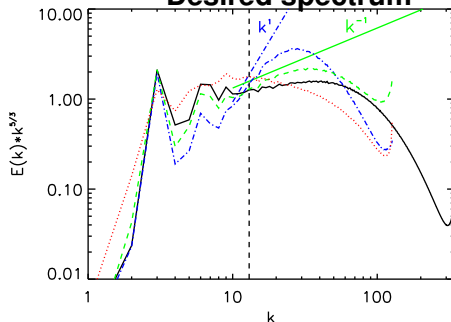
# Clark— $\alpha$ , Leray— $\alpha$ : Sub-filter-scale properties

Graham et al. Phys. Fluids **20**, 035107 (2008)

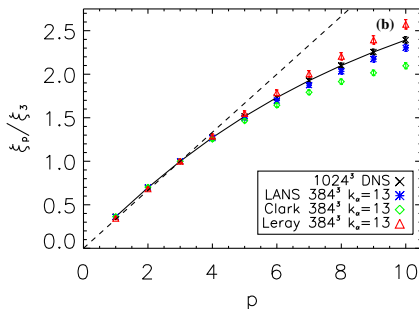
Navier-Stokes  $1024^3$

Clark— $\alpha$ , Leray— $\alpha$ , LANS  $384^3$ ,  $\alpha = 2\pi/13$

Desired spectrum



Intermittency changed



Forced TG  $k = 2$ ,  $Re \approx 3300$ ,  $Re_\lambda \approx 790$



# What about MHD?

## Circumvents rigid body formation?

- Source term in Kelvin's circulation theorem

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Gamma = \frac{d}{dt} \oint_C \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{r} = \oint_C \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$

- Spectrally **nonlocal** interactions between large scale of one field and small scale of the other (Alexakis et al. 2005; Alexakis 2007)

# LAMHD— $\alpha$ (MHD— $\alpha$ )

Holm 2002, Montgomery & Pouquet 2002

## Equations

$$\partial_t \mathbf{v} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \bar{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{j} \times \bar{\mathbf{b}} - \nabla \pi + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}$$

$$\partial_t \bar{\mathbf{b}} = \nabla \times (\bar{\mathbf{v}} \times \bar{\mathbf{b}}) + \eta \nabla^2 \bar{\mathbf{b}}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{b} = \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{b}} = 0$$

$$\text{Filter: } \mathbf{v} = (1 - \alpha^2 \nabla^2) \bar{\mathbf{v}}, \mathbf{b} = (1 - \alpha^2 \nabla^2) \bar{\mathbf{b}}$$

## Properties

- Math

- Preserves ideal MHD invariants ( $H_\alpha^1$  not  $L^2$ )
- Alfvén's theorem

- Physics

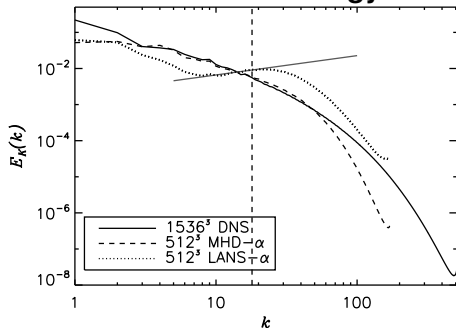
- Supports Alfvén waves at all scales
- Wavelengths  $< \alpha$ : slows & damps

# LAMHD— $\alpha$ : No positive power laws; No contamination

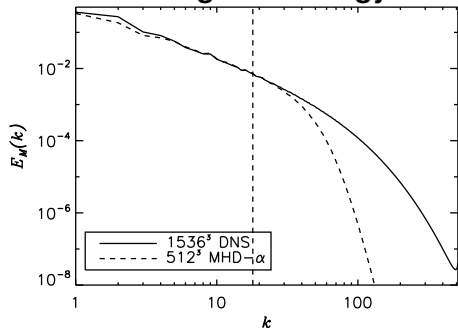
Graham et al. PRE **80**, 016313 (2009)

MHD  $1536^3$   
LANS, LAMHD  $512^3$ ,  $\alpha = 2\pi/18$

## Kinetic Energy



## Magnetic Energy

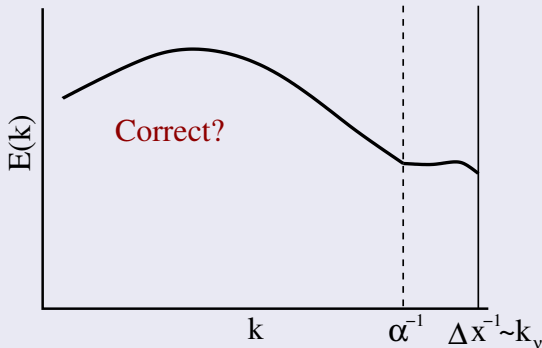


Decay ABC  $k \in [1, 4] + \text{noise}$ ,  $Re \approx 9200$ ,  $Re_\lambda \approx 1100$

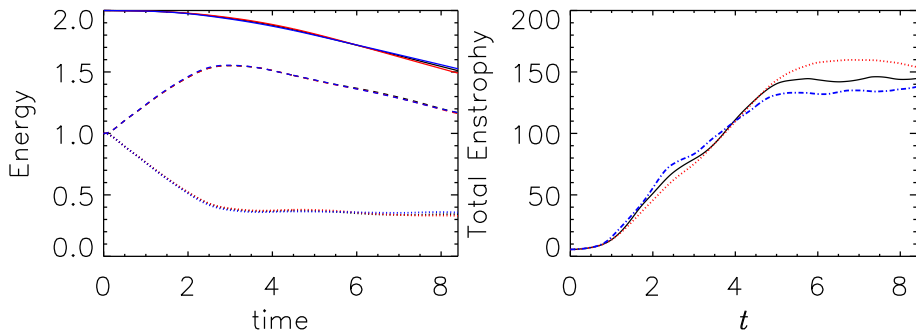


# 1 - Do the models work?

Do sub-filter-scale physics reproduce super-filter-scale properties?

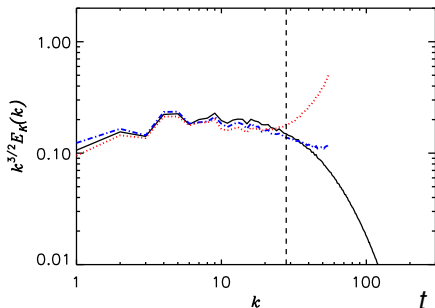
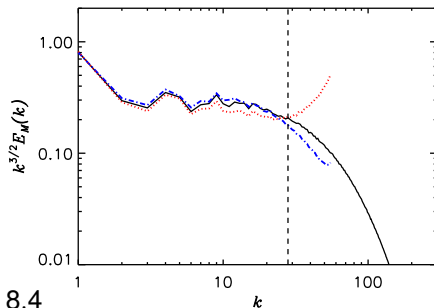


# MHD— $\alpha$ SGS test: Global quantities

DNS  $1024^3$ MHD  $168^3$ , LAMHD  $168^3$   $\alpha = 2\pi/28$ Decay ABC  $k \in [1, 4]$ ,  $Re \approx 3300$



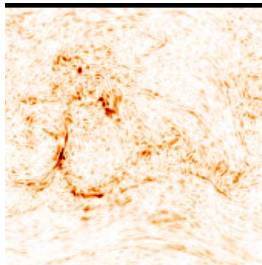
# MHD— $\alpha$ SGS test: Better spectra

DNS 1024<sup>3</sup>MHD 168<sup>3</sup>, LAMHD 168<sup>3</sup>  $\alpha = 2\pi/28$ **Kinetic Energy****Magnetic Energy**Decay ABC  $k \in [1, 4]$ ,  $Re \approx 3300$

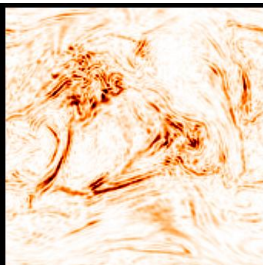
# MHD— $\alpha$ SGS test: Captures current sheets

Square current,  $j^2$

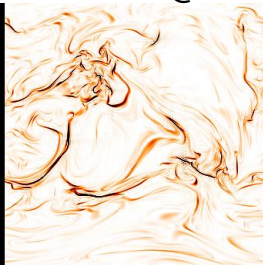
MHD  $168^3$



LAMHD  $168^3$



DNS  $1024^3$  @ 342



$t = 8.4$

# Conclusions

## Lagrangian-averaged Navier-Stokes $\alpha$

- Conserves small-scale circulation
- Prohibits local small-scale to small-scale interactions
- Develops rigid bodies  $\rightarrow$  spectral contamination

## Lagrangian-averaged Magnetohydrodynamics $\alpha$

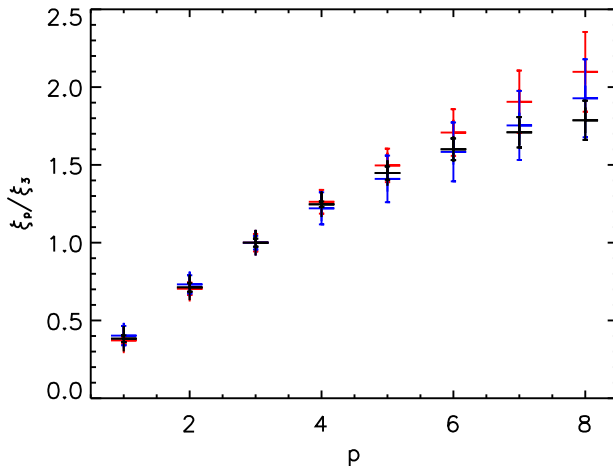
- Lorentz force is source of circulation and conduit for *nonlocal* interactions
- Only damps small-wavelength Alfvén waves & local small-scale interactions
- May be viable SGS

## Previous tests

2D <sup>†</sup>	time evolution of energies	✓
	time evolution of cross-helicity	≈
	energy spectra	+
	dynamic alignment	≈
	PDFs	except tails
	inverse cascade of vector potential	<
3D <sup>‡</sup>	time evolution of energies	✓
	time evolution of magnetic helicity	≈
	energy spectra	✓
	dynamic alignment	<
	inverse cascade of magnetic helicity	<
	dynamo	✓

<sup>†</sup> Mininni et al. *Phys. Fluids* **17**, 035112 (2005). <sup>‡</sup> Mininni et al. *Phys. Rev. E* **71**, 046304 (2005), Ponty et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **94**, 164502

# MHD— $\alpha$ SGS test: Better intermittency

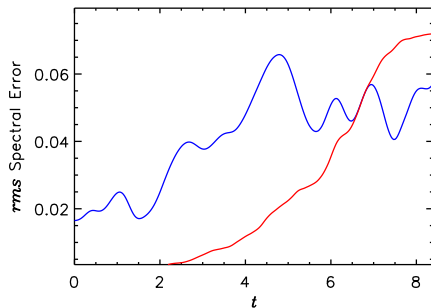


# MHD— $\alpha$ SGS test: Better spectra

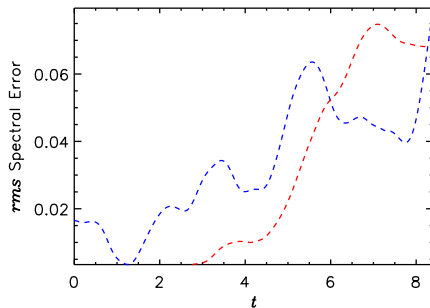
MHD  $168^3$ , LAMHD  $168^3$   $\alpha = 2\pi/28$

$\epsilon_0^b$ , Meyers et al. 2006

## Kinetic Spectral Error



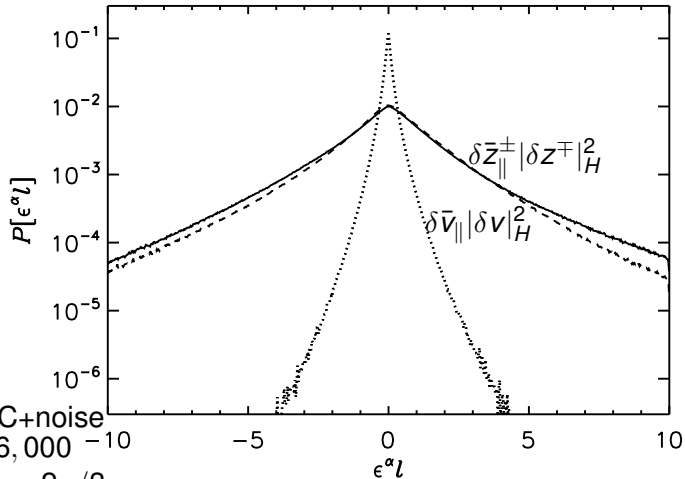
## Magnetic Spectral Error



# LAMHD— $\alpha$ : No rigid bodies

Graham et al. PRE **80**, 016313 (2009)

## PDF of flux to small scales



Decay ABC+noise

$Re \approx 26,000$

$256^3, \alpha = 2\pi/3$